(2) *Functions and privileges of the Committees.*—The draft Bill was a distinctively progressive measure and the suggestions regarding details would be submitted to the Government collectively before the Bill was taken up for discussion in the Legislative Council. The Member said that he would, however, make the following suggestions:—

(*a*) The right of appointing such responsible officers as the Health Officer and the Sanitary Engineer should be vested in the Committees subject to the sanction of Government.

(*b*) The Trivandrum Committee had to pay Rs. 6,900 as salary for the President and the Health Officer annually. The Member proposed that a non-official President and a Health Officer of the status of the old Sub-Assistant Surgeon with a pay of Rs. 100—150 might be appointed once in three years. The proposal, if approved, would result in a good saving in the Municipal funds and the amount so saved might be utilised for the construction of buildings and other engineering works or for raising the staff of scavengers and sweepers.

(*c*) The Committees should be allowed the privilege of sending at least one non-official Member to represent them in the Legislative Council.

(3) *Taxation and Finance.*—Many of the Committees were admittedly poor and their resources were small and insufficient even for ordinary work. Greater powers of taxation should be given to the Committees and they should be authorised to tax Government buildings also except those which were used for public, charitable or religious purposes. The Government should give the Committees free scope in matters of taxation and expenditure and the petty restrictions under which they now laboured should be totally removed. The financial condition of the Committee at Trivandrum was not encouraging. In undertaking important schemes, the Government should contribute a decent proportion of the total outlay. In the Municipal Bill, there was no guarantee by the Government that any amount would be allotted by them in any year.

Dewan.—I suppose the Committees are given the power of raising loans.

Member.—Yes, that is provided for in the Bill in the event of new obligations being imposed upon them.

The Member, continuing, said that the Government grant to the Trivandrum Committee at present was small as compared with previous years and he suggested that the Government should have before them some definite policy with regard to such allotment and in contributing to large schemes initiated by the Committee.

(4) *Government control and policy.*—In cases where the Committees might be expected to be better judges as to the necessity, urgency or otherwise of certain matters which were within their province, the Government should, as a rule, accept the recommendations of the Committee. At present, when the Committee was satisfied as to the necessity for new lights at particular places and made recommendations to the Government accordingly, the matter practically reached its final stage with the counter recommendations of the D. P. W. Such instances were common. The Member, therefore, prayed that there should be as far as possible the minimum of interference in matters of detail connected with Municipal administration.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

98. Insanitary condition of the town of Shencottah.

Mr. S. Kasi Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) referred to the insanitary condition of the town of Shencottah and said that many parts of the town were very congested, the houses in most of them having little or no backyards. Private scavenging had been made compulsory in some parts of the town, but until suitable lanes were provided for access to the backyards, the system could not, in the opinion of the Member, be extended throughout the town. The town should be extended by assuming the Perumalkulam and the adjacent fields. The people of the adjoining

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locality, whose houses had not much of backyards, used the sides of the tank and rendered the tank and its vicinity insanitary. The Member suggested that, if the Government would help the Committee with loans for acquiring the tank and the lands close to it, the Committee would repay the money by the sale of the land in small bits as building-sites.

The next point in the Member's representation related to the water-supply of the town. He said that the water in the two rivers running by the town was unfit for drinking and culinary purposes. There were only a few wells and even those would have no water during the hot season, if there was no water in the adjoining tanks. He suggested that the Shencottah tank situated near the town be deepened and repaired and its area extended by the acquisition of some of the adjoining lands.

The Member then referred to the insanitary condition of many of the roads and lanes and said that already some roads were maintained by the P. W. D. He suggested that the remaining roads and lanes should also be transferred to the P. W. D.

Lastly, the Member dwelt upon the necessity for an early re-survey of the town with a view to remove the confusion and uncertainty existing in regard to many lanes and yards attached to houses and to ascertain the extent of the *porambokes*. He suggested that a survey staff be deputed to do the work under the control of the local Tahsildar, who was the *ex-officio* President of the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

99. Some needs of the town of Kayankulam.

Rev. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) referred to the following needs of the town of Kayankulam and prayed that the needful be done by the Government :—

(1) The standard of the Lower Grade Secondary School at Kayankulam should be raised to the Higher Grade.

There were 49 students in the III Form. The proposed Higher Grade School would benefit the Karthigappalli and Karunagappalli taluks and also the people living near the beach. The necessity for such a school was recognised by Dr. Bishop and Mr. Pryde.

(2) The Munsiff's Court at Krishnapuram should be transferred to Kayankulam.

(3) The Kayankulam Dispensary should be converted into a District Hospital.

(4) A boat-basin should be provided at Kayankulam.

(5) Gutters should be constructed on either side of the Kayankulam market road.

(6) The portion of the Kayankulam-Haripad road, extending from Kayankulam to Nangiarkulangara, should be metalled and made cartable.

(7) Public latrines and urinals should be constructed in the town. Their maintenance would be attended to by the T. I. C.

Dewan's reply.—As regards the Munsiff's Court, it is a settled question and cannot be re-opened. The other representations of the Member will be referred to the Heads of Departments concerned for report.

100. Desirability of recording the minutes of the meetings of Town Improvement Committees in Malayalam as well as in English.

Mr. A. Viramani Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara) said that, in the 19 Town Improvement Committees in the State, there were several members who did not know the English language and that there was no provision either in the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation or in the proposed Municipal Bill, making it obligatory to record the minutes of meetings of the Committee only in English. A resolution was passed some time ago by the Mavelikara Committee that the minutes of the Committee's meetings should be recorded in Malayalam for the benefit of all the members. But when the question was submitted to the Government, the latter in their orders Nos. 7888 and 9811, dated the 22nd December 1915

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